

Epworth United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting – November 18, 2007

The Church Council of Epworth United Methodist Church met on November 18, 2007 with 22 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Ron Wilson and the minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. Devotion was led by Jim Wilson.

Ron Wilson distributed a list of Church officers and committee members for 2008. He noted that there was a need to streamline reports and communications so that in the future we will be able to make more information available to members and visitors by way of our web page. In 2008 our Church Council meetings will be more agenda based. Committee chairpersons will be asked to submit items that require discussion to the Church office prior to the meetings to ensure that time is allotted on the meeting agenda. Committee reports that do not require discussion should include a written report that can be included with the minutes and posted on the website.

Rev. Chip Hunter further explained the vision for the change to Church Council from Administrative Council. In the past we have been operating as more of a reporting and approving body. In our move to Church Council we will become more center based. Ideas from committees come to the council to present information and ask for discussion and input. All of the various groups within the Church come together to bounce ideas off of each other and make the best decision for the entire Church body. Two new committees have been formed this year, Long Range Planning and Intra-Congregational Communication. These committees should ensure that we are continuing our vision of Epworth in the future and communicating information effectively to all.

Tom Wesley made the motion that beginning in January of 2008 that we move to a monthly meeting on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The motion was seconded by Penny Vaughan. The motion was approved.

Brad Fiscus reported for the Youth. They are working on their Christmas play and continue to meet and work together on many projects.

Ellen Bryson presented a plaque to Epworth for their work with Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County. Our Church participated in the building of a home for the Hill family. Ellen noted that we are looking for a representative from Epworth for the Graceworks program. Betsy Lossee is stepping down from this position. There will be a sock tree mission project during the month of December.

Buddy Peden reported for Evangelism. They asked if Haley Reasons, who is in charge of the prayer room, could join their committee. It was agreed that committees have the flexibility to add new members during the year and this was coming as a recommendation from their committee. Buddy asked that we encourage visitors to stop by the informational kiosk set up in the narthex.

Carol Linberg reported for the Worship work area. They would like to use the Boxley class as a location for prayer prior to the services each Sunday. Aline Wesley will confirm with the Boxley class if their room could be made available for this purpose. At their last meeting they reviewed the goals obtained from the Nehemiah committee study and worked on their goals for the year. They would like to prepare a prayer trail on the property that would include stops along the way for meditation. This would be beneficial to the members of the Church as well as other persons in the community. It was agreed that the Trustees currently have a plan in place to have a cross installed by the river and it is already on their agenda to accept recommendations and determine a site plan for the property. It was suggested that they submit their request to the Trustees for consideration.

The Council reviewed a video presentation outlining the Global Impact ministry program. After the video Rev. Chip Hunter presented a Global Outreach Plan for our review and discussion. This plan outlines the program and information regarding the cost of a weekend event was presented to the Council. The cost would be approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000. Ellen Bryson noted that they had the opportunity in the past to have one of the leaders as a former Sunday School teacher and had first hand knowledge of the group that would present the event to our Church. Vic Linberg attended a presentation recently reviewing the ministry program and felt that bringing in someone from outside the local church would be a great way to spark enthusiasm for implementing this at Epworth.

Penny Vaughan commented that the Nehemiah committee felt as though this program was exactly what they felt the Church needs after reviewing the results of the cottage group meeting surveys. The recommendation from the Nehemiah committee is that we move forward with implementing the program at Epworth.

Buddy Peden advised that the Evangelism committee also supports moving forward with the program.

Jim Sipes advised that from a financial standpoint we need to be sure one operational committee takes charge of the implementation. Ron Wilson noted the importance of the program being presented to the congregation from the Church Council in order to be sure everyone is aware that this is a church wide program. It was decided that the Nehemiah committee would be the group to implement and sign off on expenses for operational purposes. The tentative date would be the last week end in February of 2008 due to the availability of the speakers. It was agreed that the projected cost would be approximately \$2,000 and the funds will come from the general budget. A "love offering" will be taken at the event to allow our group to "pay it forward". This offering is used by the program administrators to offset the cost of administration and allowing them to continue to offer their services to others in the future. The recommendation was approved by the Council.

Rev. Chip Hunter noted that the expectation is that God will call us to be in ministry in various ways. We will be given exercises at the event that will speak to us individually.

He feels that after this meeting many people will step up to be the “go team” and those persons will be the leaders for future projects.

Ron Wilson confirmed that there will be a meeting on 1/13/2008 to prepare the calendar for 2008. He asked that all committee chairs and as many members as possible be in attendance.

A proposed budget for 2008 is attached to the minutes. The budget total is \$421,566 with confirmed pledges of \$307,532 already received. The budget was approved by the Council.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wilson
Secretary